

Hispanic Trivia Quiz

1. The first city in the United States was founded by:
- a) The English at Jamestown
b) The English at Plymouth
c) The Spanish at St. Augustine
2. The first play given in the United States was performed by:
- a) The Dutch at Manhattan
b) The Pilgrims at Plymouth Rock
c) The Spanish at San Juan de los Caballeros, New Mexico
3. The largest city in the Western Hemisphere in 1776 was:
- a) Mexico City
b) Montreal
c) New York
4. The first capital built by Europeans in the Western Hemisphere which still survives today was founded in:
- a) Kingston, Jamaica
b) Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
c) Washington, D.C
5. The greatest poet in the Spanish language in the 17th century lived in:
- a) Mexico
b) Peru
c) Spain
6. Which European colonizing power issued the first set of laws specifically designed to protect the rights of subject Native American peoples in the Western Hemisphere?
- a) The Dutch
b) The English
c) The Spanish

5-6 correct: Knowledgable
3-4 correct: Student
1-2 correct: Unenlightened

ANSWERS:
1. c. (1565)
2. c. (1598)
3. a. (150,000 people)
4. b. (founded by the Spaniards)
5. a. (St. Augustine de la Florida)

The Michigan Commission on Spanish-Speaking Affairs was created on July 15, 1975, when the Michigan Legislature and Governor William Milliken approved Public Act 4. Commissioners are appointed by the governor, with advice and consent of the Senate.

- The Purpose of the Commission is to:
- ▼ Conduct studies and recommend solutions to the problems of Hispanic people.
 - ▼ Recommend to federal, state, and local government departments and agencies the creation of services and facilities as needed.
 - ▼ Serve as a clearinghouse for the collection and distribution of information on Hispanic affairs.
 - ▼ Cooperate with departments and agencies to aid in effectuating the purposes of Act 164.
 - ▼ Submit an annual report of its activities and recommendations each year to the governor, legislature, and various Hispanic communities.

STAFF
Marylou Olivarez-Mason, Executive Director
Victoria Potter, Executive Secretary

The Commission welcomes comments regarding Hispanic issues, concerns, programs, services, and events. We encourage the general citizenship to participate in the Public Forum segment of the Commission meetings, in order to receive or provide information about Hispanics. You may contact the office directly by calling (517)373-8339 or writing to:

Michigan Commission on Spanish-Speaking Affairs
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Hispanic Heritage Month in Michigan

Have You Heard About
HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH
in Michigan?

Many Americans still have not, since it is a relatively new celebration. Hispanic Heritage Month, September 15—October 15, was set aside by Presidential Proclamation to commemorate the contributions made by Hispanics throughout our nation’s history. It is a month to reflect not only the past, but also the future, on the role of Hispanics in the United States, as we approach the 21st century.

The U.S. Congress, by joint resolution approved September 17, 1968, authorized and requested the President to issue annually a proclamation designating National Hispanic Heritage Week. In 1988, the U.S. Congressional Hispanic Caucus Chairman, Congressman Esteban Torres, introduced legislation requesting the extension of the commemorative period to one month saying:

“We want to encourage the American people to learn of our heritage...We want people to remember that Hispanics make up a higher number of Congressional Medal of Honor winners of any ethnic group and have fought with valor in the Revolutionary War and every subsequent armed conflict involving the United States.”

The bill passed and it was enacted into Public Law on August 17, 1988.

Why Is
Hispanic Heritage Month
September 15—October 15?

Each September 15, at exactly 11 p.m., the bells in every Mexican church peal in memory of the passionate struggle for the country’s independence. It was on that day in 1810 that the priest of the Mexican town of Dolores, don Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla, freed the prisoners held captive by the Spanish authorities. By ringing the bells of the church, he called his parishioners to band together, overthrow the Spanish government, and bring an end to its rule over Mexico and the rest of Central America. This event—El Grito de Dolores—is considered the high point of the Mexican independence movement.

The majority of Hispanics in Michigan and the U.S. have origins in Mexico, but Hispanic Heritage Month not only commemorates their contributions but also those of Hispanics with origins in Puerto Rico, Cuba, Dominican Republic, countries of Central and South America, and Spain. September 15 not only begins the celebration of Mexican Independence Day, but it is also the Independence Day of four Latin American countries (See **SPANISH–SPEAKING LATIN AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE DAYS**).

In addition, expanding the commemorative period from one week to one month allows the inclusion of the Day of the People—El Dia de la Raza—October 12 (**U.S. Columbus Day**) thus encompassing all Hispanics.

*SPANISH SPEAKING LATIN
AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE DAYS*

Argentina	July 9 (1810)
Bolivia	August 6 (1825)
Chile	September 18 (1810)
Colombia	July 20 (1810)
Costa Rica	September 15 (1821)
Cuba	May 20 (1902)
Dominican Republic	February 27 (1844)
Ecuador	August 10 (1809)
El Salvador	September 15 (1821)
Guatemala	September 15 (1821)
Honduras	September 15 (1821)
Mexico	September 16 (1810)
Nicaragua	September 15 (1821)
Panama	November 3 (1903)
Paraguay	May 15 (1811)
Peru	July 28 (1821)
Puerto Rico	July 25 (1952)
Uruguay	August 25 (1830)
Venezuela	July 5 (1812)

The positive influence of Hispanic Heritage is found in agriculture, architecture, art, cuisine, education, exploration, language, law, religion, music, mathematics, the sciences, technology, and theater. From medicinal uses of plants from the Aztecs to two Nobel prizes for the United States (*Luis W. Alvarez in physics and Severo Ochoa in medicine and physiology*), the contributions of Hispanics to the U.S. span over 500 years. Two hundred years before the birth of George Washington, the Spanish had founded schools, missions, and towns in the new and exotic lands which they named “Colorado—Land of Colors,” “Florida—Land of Flowers,” “Los Angeles—City of Angels,” and “Nevada—Land of Snow.”

What Is Being Done in Michigan to Commemorate Hispanic Heritage Month?

The 2000 Census shows 323,877 people of Hispanic origin are residing in Michigan. *(For a profile of the Michigan Hispanic community, contact the Commission Office.)* Hispanic Heritage Month is a significant month whereby Hispanics can take pride in their heritage and share it with all of Michigans residents.

Michigan’s commemoration of Hispanic Heritage Month begins with the reading of the annual governor’s proclamation. Local activities are held in most major cities throughout the state during the month. These activities are sponsored by community-based organizations which strive to acknowledge the Hispanic Heritage. As a tribute to their efforts, the number of local activities by both Hispanic and non-Hispanic organizations continues to grow. Each year, the Commission prints a Calendar of Events outlining these local opportunities. *(For a Calendar of Events, contact the Commission Office.)*

In addition to the festivities, Hispanic Heritage Month offers an opportunity to discuss serious matters. We are aware of the hardships still faced by many Hispanics. As we celebrate our heritage, we welcome the collaboration of all Hispanics and the public at large in becoming cognizant of these hardships and joining forces to improve the quality of life for all Michigan residents.

WANT TO HELP?

The Commission on Spanish-Speaking Affairs encourages state, county, and local government offices, the business sector, and the community at large to support the efforts made by groups large and small to commemorate Hispanic Heritage Month.

Contributions of time, money, and in-kind services are welcomed gifts by any group. If you want to help but don’t know how, contact a local Hispanic organization or call the Commission office at (517) 373-8339.

What Is “Hispanic?”

The Michigan Commission on Spanish-Speaking Affairs acknowledges the various terms given to those of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Dominican Republican, Central and South American, and Spanish descent. With regard to Hispanic Heritage Month, the term Hispanic is used to remain consistent with the U.S. Bureau of the Census and with the official proclamation and legislation creating the commemorative period “Hispanic Heritage Month”.

Why Should I Participate If I Am Hispanic?

Hispanic Heritage Month provides an avenue for us to display the rich cultural heritage of the Hispanic people through art, craft displays, music, dance, dress, theater, folk expressions, lectures, workshops, and food. It is also an opportunity to examine our status, discuss platforms, and develop strategic plans for implementation.

Hispanics recognize that, as a young and growing population, we will inevitably play an increasing role in this nation’s economic, social, cultural, and political life. As we prepare ourselves to be active leaders, we have a responsibility to know more about ourselves and to share this knowledge with others.

Why Should I Participate If I Am Not Hispanic?

The Hispanic American has contributed to every aspect of our nation’s growth and development; from early exploration of the Southwest and Florida to over-representation in the Armed Forces. It is important to recognize the contributions of Hispanics in the building of this nation.

The U.S. is a pluralistic nation composed of people from many diverse cultural backgrounds. Through the process of sharing we will become better acquainted with who we are, and through understanding we will be able to improve the quality of life for all citizens.

What Can I Do to Commemorate The Contributions of U.S. Hispanics?

In addition to participating in the planned statewide and local activities, what you do to commemorate the contributions of U.S. Hispanics depends on who you are and what you enjoy most. Following are suggestions from A-Z for individuals and groups.

Attend a lecture, workshop, luncheon, or brown bag discussion about Hispanic Heritage.

Books—Read a book by or about a Hispanic. Organize a Hispanic Reading Day. Donate a book to your local library. Invite a Hispanic author to a book signing.

Contact the Michigan Education Association and ask for a copy of their annual Hispanic Heritage Month publication.

Database—Create and maintain a database of contributions of U.S. Hispanics, and a database of Hispanics in your community.

Earn a badge or honor relating to Hispanic Heritage. Or design one for youth to earn.

Flag raising or parade of flags—Attend one or organize one with your group.

Groups—If you are a Hispanic group, invite a non-Hispanic group to a meeting. If you are a non-Hispanic group, invite a Hispanic group to a meeting. *(For example: business groups, senior citizens' groups, youth groups.)*

Highlight Hispanics and their contributions on a calendar for September to October. Distribute it at group meetings.

Internships and scholarships—Establish and offer them to local Hispanics

Jog around the neighborhood and see if any of the historical landmarks commemorate contributions of Hispanics.

Knead some tortillas or a masa for pasteles. If you do not know what they are, do some research and find out.

Look up local Hispanic artists, musicians, dancers. Hire them to entertain the public at your establishment.

Magazines—Subscribe to a Hispanic magazine such as Hispanic Link (202-234-0280), Latina Style (800)651-8083, or Latino Leaders (888)528-4532.

Newspapers—Write or publish newspaper articles highlighting past and current Hispanics. Offer a writing contest on “What does it mean to be a leader?” or “Hispanic Contributions in the United States.” Sponsor newspapers for a classroom to read about Hispanic countries.

Organize a talent show, a fashion show, or a bilingual poetry reading.

Potluck with Hispanic food. Design menus to commemorate Hispanic Heritage Month at your school or organization.

Quiz competition—Be an organizer or be a participant.

Re-enactment or play—Write, direct, act in, sponsor or attend.

Spanish—Learn to sing a song in Spanish. Learn one new Spanish word each day of Hispanic Heritage Month.

Table decorations—Design, make, or donate placemats, informative table tents, or little table decorations to schools, hospitals or nursing homes.

Universities—Host a Hispanic College Fair. Organize a Hispanic student and alumni reception. Create a library display with photographs, names, and a selective bibliography of Hispanic faculty.

Video—Rent and watch one by or about Hispanics.

Word matches or crossword puzzles—create with Spanish words useful to your organization or with English words to quiz others on contributions of Hispanics in the U.S.

X, Y, Z—Be creative and make up your own ways to commemorate. Share your ideas.